

Conservation Security Program Self Assessment Worksheet for Tier III Eligibility - Other Lands

OTHER LAND BENKMARK ASSESSMENT

Worksheet Instructions

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) requires that all “other” land in your agricultural operating unit be assessed for obvious environmental problems. Other land includes farmstead areas, livestock facilities, and forest land. These areas must be assessed to determine if they meet the Vermont Quality Criteria for resource concerns determined to be significant for your CSP watershed. The assessment does not include possible concerns such as residential septic systems which are under the jurisdiction of local and state regulatory agencies.

Forested areas that used for the production of maple syrup (sugarbushes) are eligible for CSP as cropland. As such they should not be evaluated as other land.

The following questions will help determine if these “other” areas meet the identified quality criteria and if you are eligible for CSP Tier III payments on your agricultural operating unit.

This assessment is not required for Tier I contracts where you are enrolling only a part of your agricultural operation, such as one or two fields.

Check yes, no or not applicable for each of the following questions:

CSP OTHER LAND ASSESSMENT - EROSION		Yes	No	Not Applicable
1	Are other land areas, including farmsteads and incidental forest land free of significant water erosion problems, such as erosion on farm or forest roads, or erosion from roof runoff?			
2	Is accelerated streambank erosion occurring on these other lands that is partially due to an agricultural activity such as uncontrolled livestock access, streambank clearing of trees, or cropping too close to the top of a streambank? Note: If the streambank erosion is due to normal geologic processes beyond your control answer no to the question.			

If answers to either of the questions above is no the operating unit cannot be entered as a Tier III contract.

CSP OTHER LAND ASSESSMENT – Agricultural Wastes		Yes	No	Not Applicable
1	Has a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) been completed for your farm that includes the storage, handling and management of all agriculturally related wastes?			
	OR , are the answers to the next four (4) questions all YES ?			
3	Are all animal wastes stored in a manner so that no runoff occurs over the ground surface or enters the groundwater?			

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4	Are barnyards and feed areas managed in a manner that collects or filters runoff sufficiently to prevent the discharge of pollutants to surface or groundwaters?			
5	Is silage leachate collected, controlled and/or managed so as not to create runoff problems?			
6	Are calf rearing areas located a safe distance from surface waters and are they managed so that wastes are not entering surface or groundwaters?			
<i>If answers to any of the questions above is no the operating unit cannot be entered as a Tier III contract.</i>				

CSP OTHER LAND ASSESSMENT – Fertilizer and Pesticide Storage		Yes	No	Not Applicable
1	Are pesticide storage areas located above an impermeable surface under a roof and do they include a secondary containment facility?			
2	Are fertilizer storage sites located above an impermeable surface under a roof and do liquid storage sites include a secondary containment facility?			
3	If pesticide mixing occurs on the farm is the farm well adequately protected from mixing/loading spills and back siphoning?			
4	Are pesticide containers properly disposed of?			
<i>If answers to any of the questions above is no the operating unit cannot be entered as a Tier III contract.</i>				

Signature Block
<p>I certify that the information provided on this form is accurate to the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>Printed Name: _____</p> <p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>

Certification of Review
<p>I have reviewed this other land assessment and the answers meet CSP enrollment criteria for Tier III and are consistent with any farm records provided during the verification:</p> <p>NRCS Representative: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>